1	2	3	4	5
3.	Swiss Franc	21.1779	21.6748	—2.29
4.	French Franc	5.3241	5.3378	—0.26
5.	Italian Lira	0.0183	0.0191	—4.19
6.	Japanese Yen	0.2803	0.2988	—6.19
7.	Malaysian Ringgit	11.6463	11.6834	—0.32
8.	Indonesian Rupiah	0.0149	0.0145	+2.76
9.	Thailand Baht	1.2282	1.2385	—0.83
10.	Hongkong Dollar	4.0602	4.0597	+0.01
11.	Pakistan Rupee	1.0427	1.0279	+1.44
12.	Chinese Yuan	5.4095	3.6024	+50.16

Frauds in Public Sector Banks

4424. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the frauds in public sector banks during the last two years, giving details, year-wise ;

(b) the main reasons in this regard ; and

(c) the various precautions taken by Government to check the frauds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) During the period from 1-1-93 to 30-9-93, as reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India, 1587 cases of fraud took place in India as compared to 1535 and 1702 cases of frauds which took place in India in 1991 and 1992 respectively.

(b) The rise of frauds in banks may be attributed to large scale expansion and diversification in banking business, non-observance of laid down norms and procedures by bank officials, weaknesses in internal control mechanism in banks etc.

(c) Government/RBI and Banks have taken several steps from time to time for prevention and prompt detection of frauds.

RBI has issued circulars giving comprehensive guidelines wherein banks have been advised to strengthen the control mechanism, with a view to eliminate scope for malpractices. Fraud cases are reviewed by RBI, and in ingenious cases, modus operandi and required safeguards are advised to banks for initiating action to prevent their recurrence. RBI has also set up a Special Investigation Cell (SIC) for undertaking investigation and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in identified fraud prone areas.

Banks have been impressed upon to clear arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas. Progress of implementation of recommendations made by the Ghosh Committee which enquired into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in the banks is monitored by RBI.

RBI has also impressed upon the banks for proper training of operational personnel so that they appreciate the implications of laxaties in following laid down procedures, and take needed care in actual working.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

4425. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the country's foreign exchange reserve, excluding Gold and S.D.R., as at the end of March, 1994 ;

(b) how it compares with those as at the end of March, 1991, March, 1992 and March, 1993 ;

(c) the component of foreign exchange reserve for the above period ;